Constitution of Heritage Sites Commission

4409. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to constitute a Heritage Sites Commission as the present legal and institutional framework is inadequate to address the conservation of built heritage in its broadest outline;

(b) whether the function of the proposed Heritage Sites Commission would include advising Government on heritage matters and framing guidelines for conservation of heritage monuments and sites; and

(c) if so, by when Government is likely to announce its formation?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As the present legal and institutional framework is not adequate to address the documentation, inventorisation and conservation of built heritage in its broadest outline, government has proposed to constitute a Heritage Sites Commission. The Commission would lay down broad policy guidelines and take steps to ensure that such guidelines are observed.

The functions of the proposed Heritage Sites Commission would include:

— tender advice to Government on heritage matters.

— frame guidelines in the matter of conservation of heritage monuments and sites.

— study or cause to study important matters regarding conservation of heritage and submit reports to the Government.

— suggest appropriate amendments to the existing heritage legislations.

(c) No time frame can be indicated at this stage.